

with each letter. The admonition is given, "please do not copy the exact wording of any parts of the leaflets but change the wording so that it will be in your own language." And this anchor to windward is cast, "you might state in your letter that you have been benefited by chiropractic adjustment."

The single purpose of all this made-to-order correspondence is to show the Governor, the editors, et al., that there is a sudden, spontaneous, "popular protest." It's an old game, and was worked effectively in the days of Julius Caesar when the conspirators threw letters, written with disguised and varied chirography, over the garden wall of noble Brutus.

It is effective to-day only with a few unsophisticated papers that are greatly impressed by small advertisements. As the Covina Citizen says, "chiropractic treats nothing, heals nothing."

#### THE LADY AND THE TIGER.

Behold how fast a cult can grow! In 1915, the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Los Angeles, in its catalog, stated that the osteopath knew too much about physiology to administer drugs, and advises against taking out any "of the pieces of which the human body is composed." In 1918, the mother school, almost had we said "mother church," at Kirksville, Mo., stated in its catalog, "Our science must grow and develop. . . . It is especially noteworthy that aside from anesthetics, this has not and never will include the giving of drugs." In 1919, President Vanderburgh, of the California State Osteopathic Association, stated in unequivocal terms to the writer, that osteopathy includes the giving of drugs and the use of surgery. Doubtless, some sweet day osteopathy will celebrate its adolescence by becoming indistinguishable in education, content and method, from modern scientific medicine. China has many times been conquered. Each time she has benevolently assimilated and thoroughly digested her conquerors, and pursued her way unperturbed. Osteopathy may give rise to some transient indigestion but such rapid growth as recorded above, can but end as did the Lady and the Tiger.

### Editorial Comment

Statistics of the State Board of Medical Examiners show that on October 10, 1919, there were registered in California 5,975 physicians and surgeons, 551 osteopaths, 55 naturopaths, 142 "drugless practitioners," 190 chiropodists, and 100 midwives. Of the 5,975 physicians and surgeons, 1,517, or 25.4 per cent., entered government service during the great war.

Why is it that Eddyite "heelers" charge all the trade will stand and demand material dollars in a world where all is illusion? Also why do the Eddyites tolerate no charities, or charitable enterprises? We would be interested in seeing

a certified financial statement from the "mother church" showing the derivation and distribution of all funds. Being in a condition of darkness, will some one kindly throw light on the reason for calling Eddyism Christian? Also the reason for calling it science?

Great interest centers on the recent work of Kendall on the nature of the active principle of the thyroid gland. Kendall and Osterberg (1 J. Bio. Chem., Dec., 1919, p. 265) have recently described the active principle, thyroxin, and have isolated it as a body of unit chemical constitution. It is a colorless, odorless, crystalline substance, insoluble in aqueous acid solutions. It is soluble in alkalis and forms salts both with metals and with acids. It exists in four closely related chemical forms, is not easily subject to oxidation or reduction, and in alkaline solutions gives up its iodine as hypoiodous acid. This last reaction is accelerated by sunlight, which also produces pink compounds from the colorless thyroxin molecule. The discovery and isolation and chemical identification of thyroxin represents a noteworthy advance in chemical physiology and one that is sure to eventuate in a fuller knowledge of the pathology and treatment of disorders of the thyroid gland.

#### EDDYITES WANT SICK BENEFITS

One's religious tolerance must be fixed in a peculiarly solemn setting if it resists a chuckle over the embarrassment that has befallen the Christian Scientists belonging to the teaching force of the New York City public school system. The regulations of the city board of education provide that a teacher absent from duty will not be "docked" of pay if she turns in a certificate from her physician that she was too ill to work. Now, strangely enough, the Christian Scientists on the staff want the benefit of that rule; although "Science and Health" teaches them to deny that there is any such thing as sickness in the world, yet it is far more agreeable, when pay day looms ahead, to deny the denial than to contemplate the loss of needed cash.

But the grave difficulty comes over that required certificate of a physician; the only physician known to loyal disciples of Mother Eddy is the Christian Science healer. Will, then, the board take a healer's certificate that on such and such a day an absent teacher was ill? No, says the board, it will not. If the healer is consistent, all he can certify is that the teacher had an error of mortal mind. And the board of education of the august City of New York says that if it knows itself—and it thinks it does—there is no good New York money going to be paid out to encourage errors of mortal mind. Let the Christian Scientist engage "absent treatment" and stay in her schoolroom. The strange doctrine of Mrs. Eddy has led her followers into a good many ridiculous and abashing situations but none more ludicrous, we judge, than this spectacle of so intelligent a company of the faithful industriously whipping the devil round the proverbial stump in order to obtain sick benefits for maladies and infirmities which they constantly declare not to exist.—(From "The Continent," Chicago, editorial.)